Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a proximal portion that extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and a distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end;

an anchoring member located within the wall of the distal portion of the elongate body between the inner surface and the outer surface, in contact with the wall and secured to the distal portion of the steering wire and the distal end of the stiffening member;

an anti-tear device configured and positioned relative to the stiffening member so as to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends; and

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

21. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the anchoring member is substantially radiopaque.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end of the stiffening member being directly secured to the anchoring member; and

an anti-tear device secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member and configured ~~and positioned relative to the stiffening member~~ so as to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends.

25-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 24, wherein the anti-tear device comprises~~ , comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end, the distal end of the stiffening member being directly secured to the anchoring member; and

a tubular member that is a partial circle in cross-section and has a slot positioned relative to the stiffening member so as to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body;

an anti-tear device positioned adjacent to at least a portion of the stiffening member and configured to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body when the stiffening member bends; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear device and which is not located within the stiffening member, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device is secured to the stiffening member.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member.

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the anti-tear device comprises a tubular member with a slot.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body; and

a substantially c-shaped anti-tear device with a slot associated with the stiffening member;

wherein a portion of the steering wire is positioned within the slot.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the elongate body defines a longitudinal axis and the stiffening member extends less than entirely around the longitudinal axis.

54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 53, wherein the anti-tear device extends further around the longitudinal axis than the stiffening member.

55-64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a proximal end; and

an anti-tear device, defining a proximal end and a distal end, secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member such that the proximal end of the anti-tear device is located within the distal portion of the elongate body;

wherein the elongate body defines a distal end and at least a portion of the stiffening member is located proximal of the distal end of the elongate body; and

wherein the steering wire is not directly connected to the anti-tear device.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the elongate body defines a diameter and the stiffening member and the distal portion of the steering wire are substantially diametrically opposed from one another.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a proximal portion, a distal portion and a diameter and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body such that the stiffening member will apply a force over an elongate body surface area when the stiffening member is bent;

anti-tear means, associated with the stiffening member, for increasing the elongate body surface area over which the force is applied when the stiffening member is bent to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body; and

a steering wire, which is not connected to the anti-tear means, having a distal portion operably connected to the distal portion of the elongate body;

wherein the stiffening member and the distal portion of the steering wire are substantially diametrically opposed from one another.

69. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an elongate body defining a longitudinal axis, a proximal portion and a distal portion and including a wall defining an inner surface, an outer surface and a lumen extending from the proximal portion to an aperture in the distal portion;

a steering wire having a distal portion;

an anchoring member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and secured to the steering wire;

a stiffening member associated with the distal portion of the elongate body and defining a distal end, the distal end of the stiffening member being directly secured to the anchoring member; and

a substantially tubular member, secured to the stiffening member, defining a wall thickness and a continuous length in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis that is substantially greater than the wall thickness.

70. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein the tubular member includes a slot.

72. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein tubular member extend less than completely around the longitudinal axis.

73. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein the steering wire is movable relative to the tubular member.

74. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, further comprising:

a handle, operably connected to the elongate body and to the steering wire, adapted pull the steering wire relative to the elongate body.

75. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 69, wherein the steering wire extends to the proximal portion of the elongate body and is movable relative to the proximal portion of the elongate body.